

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
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P 062140Z SEP 78  
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INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
SECDEF WASHDC  
JCS WASHDC  
CSA WASHDC  
CSAF WASHDC  
CNO WASHDC  
CINCMAC SCOTT AFB IL  
AMCONSUL MONTREAL  
ALL OTHER CANADIAN POSTS POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 04356

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA, CA  
SUBJECT: CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN UNTAG FOR NAMIBIA?

REF: USUN 3411

1. IN A RECENT BRIEF ARTICLE ON UN PEACEKEEPING PLANS FOR NAMIBIA, THE CANADIAN PRESS QUOTED TONY ADVOKAAT, ACTING DIRECTOR OF UN POLITICAL AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, AS SAYING THAT CANADA'S ROLE IN THE UN TRANSITIONAL GROUP (UNTAG) WOULD PROBABLY BE "MINIMAL" BECAUSE THE CANADIAN MILITARY ARE ALREADY HEAVILY INVOLVED IN UN PEACEKEEPING EFFORTS IN CYPRUS AND THE MIDDLE EAST.

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2. COMMENT: ADVOKAAT SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD US THAT EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE ARE PREPARING FOR THE CABINET A MEMORANDUM DEFINING VARIOUS OPTIONS FOR POSSIBLE CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN UNTAG. THESE OPTIONS INCLUDE: SIMPLY OFFERING CIVILIAN ELECTORAL OBSERVERS; PROVIDING A CONTINGENT OF RCMP OFFICERS TO MONITOR LOCAL POLICE FORCES IN NAMIBIA; AND SENDING A

BATTALION FROM THE CANADIAN FORCES (PROBABLY FROM THE AIRBORNE REGIMENT AT PETAWAWA). NO DECISION HAS YET BEEN MADE ON WHICH OPTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE CABINET.

3. THE CANADIAN DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE, AS WELL AS OTHER MINISTRIES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO REDUCE EXPENDITURES AS TRUDEAU HAS RECENTLY DONNED THE PUBLIC MANTEL OF THRIFTINESS. FOR THIS REASON, AND IN VIEW OF THE GOC'S EXPERIENCE IN CYPRUS, WE BELIEVE THAT THE CABINET'S EVENTUAL DECISION ON A CANADIAN ROLE IN UNTAG WILL BE STRONGLY INFLUENCED BY WHETHER THERE IS AGREEMENT TO FINANCE THE NAMIBIAN OPERATION THROUGH THE REGULAR UN BUDGET.  
ENDERS

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014